

**INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE**

September 8, 2010, 9:00 a.m.

IAC Office, 100 N. Senate Avenue, Room N505  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Jeanne Mirro, Chair

**Minutes**

Members present via teleconference: Jeanne Mirro, Karen Ellerbrook, Judy Hess, Earl Williams, Dick Stifel, Jon Ford

IAC staff present: Lewis Ricci, Michelle Anderson, Dennis Hardin

Note: Due to lack of quorum present, no actions were taken during this meeting. Chairperson Jeanne Mirro opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and remarked that she was pleased to begin the new fiscal year with “a crackerjack team”.

**1. Approval of Agenda and July 2010 Minutes.** No action was taken.

**2. Financial Report.** IAC Executive Director Lewis Ricci referred to a printout (attached) showing the FY 2011 budget for the period ending August 24, 2010. He then reported on a recent meeting between IAC executive staff and the Governor’s budget office, during which the FY 2012 – 2013 IAC budget was previewed. The Governor is asking IAC to submit a proposed budget reflecting a 35% decrease in funding from the previous legislative appropriation. IAC will submit a “change package” along with the budget in an attempt to restore approximately \$200,000 in funding, but the prospect for approval is doubtful. Mr. Ricci also reported that the Cultural Trust Administrative Board, in its recent meeting, voted to approve the withdrawal of \$31,581.31 in interest from the Cultural Trust Fund to support Arts in Education grants for FY 2011. Mr. Ricci also reported that the CTAB voted to endorse a legal opinion from former Commissioner Steve Tuchman that all interest accrued throughout the life of the Cultural Trust Fund is available for withdrawal by IAC. The question had been raised whether or not the amount of interest which accrued prior to the Fund reaching the \$1,000,000 milestone was available for use. This amount, approximately \$50,000, will be used to fund Arts in Education grants in FY 2012 and FY 2013.

**3. Partnership Issues.**

A. Mr. Ricci recounted that the Arts Commission of Southwestern Indiana, a Regional Arts Partner in Evansville, scored below the acceptable level for the second time in paneling which occurred over the summer. The IAC, in its last meeting in July 2010, voted to institute a work-improvement plan to address shortcomings in the performance of ACSWI as a Regional Arts Partner. The work-improvement plan was delivered on September 1, 2010, and since that time, a letter has been received by IAC from the ACSWI board president, questioning certain aspects of the Regional Partner

contract for FY 2011, which ACSWI has yet to sign. Mr. Ricci asked the Executive Committee for discussion about the next step to be taken, and the discussion centered on setting a deadline for ACSWI to sign and return the contract, or to decline to become a Regional Partner. The committee deferred to the opinion of Commissioner Karen Ellerbrook, who is from Evansville. She agreed that a deadline needs to be set for ACSWI, and that the deadline should be one month from the date of a letter to be sent from IAC in response to the letter from the ACSWI president.

B. Ms. Mirro reported that the Program Evaluation Committee, in its latest meeting, was not able to reach consensus on the matter of Regional Arts Partners Hanover College and the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County. These two Partners, since they are not, by definition of their mission statements, “arts organizations”, are not eligible to receive operational grants from IAC. However, they would be eligible to receive project grants through a Regional Partner, except that the organizations themselves are the re-granting Partners and they cannot apply to themselves for funding. Both have applied to receive project grants directly from IAC. Since this quandary is likely to occur again under the present grant guidelines, Mr. Ricci was of the opinion that a solution may be found by rewriting the guidelines for FY 2012, but that no good solution can be attained in the current grant year. Mr. Stifel, who is Commissioner from St. Joseph County, agreed with Mr. Ricci’s assessment of the situation. The Executive Committee will convene prior to the start of the September 17 Quarterly Business Meeting to vote upon a recommendation to submit to the full Commission.

C. Mr. Ricci reported that the time frame for Technical Assistance Grants has been changed from a fiscal year basis to a calendar year basis. The application period for CY 2011 is now open, and the grant panel will meet on November 10 to score the applications.

4. **Strategic Planning.** Mr. Ricci reported that several public meetings have been scheduled to garner input for the new IAC Strategic Plan. The meetings will be at Hanover College on September 29, Butler University on October 4, Ball State University on October 5, and at Valparaiso University on October 18. A fifth meeting will likely be scheduled at Indiana State University. Mr. Ricci also reported that the Committee on the Future, in its latest meeting, looked at several variations of a Mission Statement (handout attached) and, for the most part, favored the following: “To positively affect the cultural, economic and educational climate of Indiana by providing artistic resources for all of our State’s citizens and communities.” Some members of the Executive Committee suggested re-wording of the statement, and Mr. Ricci agreed to bring a fresh version to the full Commission at its September 17 meeting. Mr. Stifel, who is Chairperson of the Committee on the Future, iterated his enthusiasm for the following Vision Statement: “The IAC will be recognized as the most effective of all state arts agencies in support of artistic experiences for its citizens.” Mr. Ricci will include Mr. Stifel’s proposal in the document to be presented to the full Commission. A brief discussion followed concerning the Values Statement, and all three Statements will be further refined at the Quarterly Business Meeting. A substantial block of time during the

QBM will be devoted to refining the Mission, Vision, and Values Statements. Susan Zurbuchen of the Butler University Arts Administration faculty will facilitate that portion of the QBM.

**5. Other Issues.**

A. Majors Category Changes. Mr. Ricci presented a handout (attached) which explains proposed changes to the grant program currently known as “Major Multi-Regional”. The proposed changes, in brief, are: 1) change the name to AOS III – Multiregional Grants; 2) remove the amount requested from the application; 3) remove the present cap of 13 grants in this category; 4) no longer allow applicants in this category to apply in another category during the same grant period. These proposed changes, as well as proposed changes to the Statewide Arts Service Organization (SWASO) grant category, will be presented to the full Commission at its September 17 meeting.

**6. Old Business.** Ms. Ellerbrook inquired about the new grant category which was created during re-structuring last spring, temporarily dubbed “AOS-0”. Mr. Ricci reported that the category will be known as “AOS”, distinguished from AOS I, AOS II and AOS III.

**7. New Business.** Ms. Mirro reported that October is Arts & Humanities Month, and encouraged all committee members to “go out of their way” to attend events in their regions.

**8. Adjourn.** Ms. Mirro thanked everyone for their participation and closed the meeting at 10:54 a.m.